



SHARING THE NEWS

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This newsletter is for child care providers caring for children in the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program, a program which helps low-income families pay for regulated child care while participating in work activities.

- Authorizations to Licensed Family Providers
- YoungStar Quality Ratings
- Getting and Using Access to the Child Care Provider Information (CCPI) Website

LICENSED FAMILY PROVIDER NEWS Authorizations Change from Enrollment to Attendance Based Effective August 28, 2011

Recent changes in the law authorize the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to implement cost savings measures in the Wisconsin Shares child care program including the reduction of child care provider rates. DCF is changing the way it reimburses licensed family child care providers as a cost savings measure. These changes are being made to ensure that the program has sufficient funding to meet future needs.

Effective August 28, 2011, all new Wisconsin Shares authorizations to licensed family child care providers will be Attendance based only. Enrollment based authorizations will no longer be available to licensed family child care providers, except for special needs children on a case-by-case basis.

New Authorization Policies for licensed family child care providers:

- Authorizations issued August 28, 2011 or later, will be paid only on an Attendance basis.
- Beginning August 28, 2011, authorizations that need to be backdated to time periods prior to August 28, 2011 will be paid on an Attendance basis only.
- Existing Enrollment based authorizations that were issued before August 28, 2011 will remain Enrollment based until their end date.



Attendance based authorization reimbursement policies:

- Regular rate reimbursement will continue to be paid at the private pay rate or the county weekly maximum rate plus 10%, whichever is less, minus the parent's copayment.
- Manually calculated rates will continue to be paid at the manual rate minus the parent's copayment.
- County maximum rates will not be increased by more than 10% for licensed providers who are both accredited and providing care on an Attendance basis. (Accredited licensed family providers will get an increase in 2013 as a result of YoungStar implementation.)
- Payments will not be made for "holding a slot" for Attendance based authorized children.
- Attendance based authorizations are not eligible for vacation payments or any other payment where there is no actual attendance by the child.

There is no change for certified family providers or licensed group providers.



On August 4th, The Department of Children and Families (DCF) launched the new child care finder website, giving parents information on the quality of care being provided by child care providers throughout Wisconsin through YoungStar ratings. With this new tool, parents can be confident in making the best choice for their child. The new child care finder web site is <http://childcarefinder.wisconsin.gov>

YoungStar rates child care providers based on education, learning environment, business practices and the health and well-being of children. Providers will be evaluated annually and given a rating from 1 to 5 stars – with 5 stars being the highest rating. On the YoungStar web site, www.youngstar.wisconsin.gov, parents can view star ratings, health and safety issues, and accreditations for providers in their area. Nearly 1,700 providers have been rated since January, and more are added to the website every week. The tool will help parents be more confident when choosing a child care provider.

"Now, in addition to talking with other parents and consulting with child care resource and referral programs, parents will have clear, concise information about the quality of providers," stated DCF Secretary Eloise Anderson. "Through YoungStar, we will improve the quality of child care across the state to help our children get off to a promising start while providing parents with priceless piece of mind."

Providers who have been following this effort know that there are plans to link the ratings to Wisconsin Shares provider reimbursements. This link, called "tiered reimbursement" will begin no earlier than July of 2012. To stay informed about this program, check the YoungStar website often at www.youngstar.wisconsin.gov.



Getting and Using CCPI Access

The Child Care Provider Information web, CCPI, gives providers an online tool for managing their business with the subsidy program. Providers can use CCPI for up to date and historic information on authorizations and payments. This lets providers get information without calling workers and waiting for responses. Many providers also enter their own attendance online, which helps them get payment on a predictable schedule.

To get access, follow the 'New User' instructions available on the DCF website: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/ccpi/pdf/newuser.pdf>. You will need to send the completed, signed request form to your child care coordinator. A list of child care coordinators is available on the DCF website: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/wishares/pdf/coordinators.pdf>

REMINDER:

- It is illegal to share user log on IDs and passwords.
- If you illegally share your log on ID and password, you are responsible for any errors, overpayments, etc. and DCF may end your access.
- Each person using CCPI must have their own log on ID and password. This requires a separate access request form for each person.
- The provider is responsible for notifying their child care coordinator if an individual no longer needs access to CCPI.
- Please contact your child care coordinator if there are employees or former employees who may still have access to CCPI that no longer need access.